

NEWS

HERO,
Continued from Page 1

He observed a car pull up and a man jump from the vehicle, sprinting away. Dunham - in full combat gear - chased the man down, tackling him to the ground.

Other Marines came to assist in the apprehension when the terrorist pulled a pin from a hand grenade.

Dunham dove onto the grenade, taking the blast into his own body, saving the lives of his Marines. Dunham suffered serious wounds, along with two other Marines. But were it not for his actions, all three might have died.

“He knew what he was doing,” said Lance Cpl. Jason A. Sanders, 21, from McAllester, Okla., and a mortar man with Company K. “He wanted to save Marines’ lives from that grenade.”

Another mortar man with the company, Lance Cpl. Mark E. Dean, 22, from Owasso, Okla., described Dunham as an unselfish Marine. Dunham’s enlistment was to end in June, but he voluntarily extended his contract to join his Marines.

“We told him he was crazy for coming out here,” Dean explained. “He decided to come out here and fight with us. All he wanted was to make sure his boys made it back home.”

“The only way to honor him is in his own way,” said Capt. Trent A. Gibson, commanding officer for Company K. “We must continue to do our duty, take care of our Marines, lead by example and take the fight to the enemy.”

Dunham dreamed of joining the Los Angeles Police Department after his tour.

He was born Nov. 10, 1981, and joined the Marine Corps July 31, 2000. He completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. He joined 3rd

Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in September 2003, serving with 4th Platoon as a machine gunner.

Huff said commanders with the battalion are still awaiting eyewitness statements from Marines before determining at what level they will recommend Dunham for a decoration.

“What Corporal Dunham did equates to what a lot of heroes of our past have done to earn the nation’s highest honor,” explained Sgt. Maj. Wayne R. Bell, 1st Marine Division’s sergeant major. “If it were up to me, he’d be put in for the Medal of Honor. From bits and pieces of what I’m hearing, it very well could be.

“He’ll be in the history books, like many of our Marines here,” Bell added.

Dunham survived his wounds for ten days when his parents, Daniel K. Dunham and Natalie J. Sherwood, made the decision to end life support for the Marine.

According to Bell, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada were at Dunham’s bedside with his parents at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland when he died.

“That in itself speaks volumes knowing that no matter who it is - general officer or a corporal - his act alone warrants a visit from the Commandant,” Bell said. “I know that the Marines who are alive today, because of what Corporal Dunham did, will never forget that Marine as long as they live.

“Corporal Dunham is everybody’s hero,” Bell added. “He sacrificed his life so his Marines could continue the mission.”

“God made something special when he made Jason,” Dean said, “It was a privilege and honor to know him. It’s sad he is gone, but he is living it up in heaven and I’m happy for that.”



Sgt. Jose L. Garcia

CAMP AL QAIM, Iraq— Marines from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment bow their heads and recite a prayer during a memorial service held April 29 to honor Cpl. Jason L. Dunham. Dunham served with 4th Platoon, K Co. as a machine gunner. He jumped on a grenade April 14 in the outskirts of Husaybah to save other Marines’ lives, while manning a vehicle check-point. He died 10 days later from his wounds.

Spring Swim

For more information, call 228-1598



The Depot's Outdoor Pool opens at the end of May.

Summer Volunteering

Summer is the time to catch up with what you have been putting off all year. If you are interested in interested in serving your community call 228-7351 for more information about using your time to help those in need.

BREAKFAST,
Continued from Page 1

new people, and at the same time, getting news first, rather than hear-say.

“To hear the general refer to us as ‘Civilian Marines’ states our contributions to the command are vital and should make everyone feel good,” he said. “The breakfast provided an opportunity to meet new people and receive information firsthand.”

According to Nix, NSPS is a new civilian personnel system that the Department of the Navy had originally scheduled to transition to in 2004. Also, the Resumix system is one that civilians use to submit their resumes for government jobs.

Nix explained the breakfast served as a means to keep the Civilian Marine work

force informed and up to date on command issues and events and to provide job training.

“The Civilian Marine Breakfast provided a venue for getting out information to the civilian workforce, as well as for training,” she said. “It also improved morale and built Esprit de Corps.”

Slide shows were used to show several different projects in process, said Marcia Roth, Depot Laundry manager. She added it was evident that much preparation went into making the breakfast a success for the employees.

“The thing that struck me the most was the effort put into setting up this program and attempting to bring the civilians up to date on what the base and Marines are doing,” Roth said. “If the civilians understand what the Marines are going through and the

Marines understand the civilians’ concerns, there can be more understanding and supportiveness between the two.”

Nix also said she believes the quarterly meetings aid in both the civilians and Marines understanding each other’s issues, as well as their roles.

“It is important for the Civilian Marines to understand the role the Marines play in accomplishing the Depot mission of recruiting and recruit training and for the Marines to understand the role the Civilian Marines play in supporting the mission,” she said. “It helps them work well together as a team that is dedicated to the accomplishment of our mission, ‘to recruit, train and support the making of basic U.S. Marines for successful follow-on training and service in the Corps.’”